CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN 1990: GRAY DAVIS vs. MATT FONG; BATTLE FOR CONTROLLER MAY CENTER ON ETHICS. Editor's note: The Calif. news media (including CALPEEK) paid very little attention to the State Controller's race during the primary because neither Demo incumbent Gray Davis nor GOP challenger Matthew Fong had a June 5 opponent. But now that the primary is over, the news media is beginning to take a closer look at this contest. Here is CALPEEK's analysis & report...

...Demo Sec. of State March Fong Eu is probably in one of the most uncomfortable spots she's ever been in. Her attorney son Matthew is challenging one of her Demo allies, Controller Gray Davis, in what many insiders now see as a runaway for Davis. The June 1990 L.A. Times poll showed Davis with a 27-point lead over Fong, 43% to 16%, with 41% undecided. Yes, it is only July and things could change, but not unless lightning strikes...

...Two things are need by the Fong campaign to achieve a breakthrough: a good issue and some big bucks to counter the massive Davis warchest of about $2.5 million...

...Issue first. It's old news to CALPEEK readers, but immediately after Davis won his first bid for controller over former GOP State Sen. Bill Campbell in 1986 (by a margin of about 500,000 votes, 51.5% to 44.1% for Campbell), Davis was saddled with a large campaign deficit. He erased the debt quickly, but used State workers, some members of his own assembly staff and State phones to make fundraising calls. Davis denies any wrongdoing, but reimbursed the State for use of staff and equipment. This incident received a good deal of news media attention at the time and then disappeared until recently...

...The issue resurfaced earlier this year when critics of Demo AG John Van de Kamp noted that VdK's Justice Department refused to prosecute Davis on what some in the justice department felt were valid charges. Davis was not thrilled by the rehash, but that's politics...

...Why is this old issue likely to resurface? First, Fong isn't likely to let it go and the second reason might be Assemblyman Dave Elder(D-Long Beach). According to the May 13, 1990 issue of the Long Beach Press Telegram (article by Gary Webb), from Dec. 1986 to March 1987, a Susan L. Grivas was on Edler's payroll, but was really working for Davis, helping the new controller erase his campaign deficit. The Webb story makes for great reading, but is probably more harmful to Elder than to Davis, except that it rehashes the old story with a new twist. Again, the CA Justice Dept. briefly investigated Elder, but nothing has come of it. Yet stories like this could find their way into 30-second TV hit spots against the incumbent Demo controller...

...For that, Fong has hired a whole string of consultants, starting with Calif. vet Stu Spencer of Orange Co. The TV/media consultant is Washington D.C. based Don Ringe; polling will be handled by Pat Loui of Hawaii. Chris Stewart is still the day to day campaign manager, while GOP consultant Dave Willmon (from the LG campaign of State Sen. John Seymour) has signed on as deputy campaign manager/statewide field coordinator...

{Continued Next Page}

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Remember, CALPEEK is on R&R this week so there won't be a JULY 30th issue of the newsletter. CALPEEK will be in San Diego covering the GOP State Convention. The next issue will be AUG. 6th. Stay tuned...

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...Money, of course, is the other element that Fong needs. To date, the campaign claims to have raised about $500,000, with about $200,000 on hand. Fong needs a large warchest to hammer his ethics charges via paid media. Free media won't cut it...

...As for Davis, he doesn't seem too worried at this point. He has NOT as yet hired a campaign consultant, but sources say he confers regularly with Carl D'Agostino and Michael Berman. Sources believe this team will be aboard the Davis campaign in the not too distant future. But Davis does have a campaign office in L.A., with operatives Maryann Gady in S.F. and Arden McConnell in Sacto...

...Bottomline: Davis is a favorite at this point in the campaign. But if the two elements (an issue and money) come through for Fong, he might make this lopsided contest into an interesting race. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 1990: FALL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.
Editor's note: Here is a CALPEEK update on some local ballot measures that will be facing voters Nov. 6th...

• COUNTY/CITY GOVERNMENT – Voters in the various cities and unincorporated areas which make up Sacramento County will get an opportunity to vote on a plan to eliminate the 4 city governments and instead have a county mayor with a council of 11 supervisors. The largest city in the county is Sacramento, with 191,254 registered voters. However, the KEY to success probably rests with the 331,778 voters in the unincorporated parts of the county. Three smaller cities are also part of the county: Folsom, Galt and Isleton. If voters okay this plan, Sacramento could have a population of well over 1 million, making it one of the bigger cities in the U.S. Townsend & Co. of Sacto are running the YES side...

• ELECTING A CITY ATTORNEY – A citizens initiative that would make the Santa Monica City Attorney an ELECTIVE office rather than an appointive office has qualified for the Nov. 6th ballot. The proponents of the initiative say SM City Atty. Robert Myers' policy of NOT prosecuting misdemeanor crimes by homeless street people has led to an increase in this type of crime. Backers of the measure say Myers' policy reflects the attitude of the city council...

• PUBLIC SAFETY AGREEMENT – A petition drive is underway in S.F. to amend the city charter to permit collective bargaining between the city/county and its fire, police and other public safety employee associations. Under this plan, if the parties fail to reach an agreement, the disputed issues would be settled by a 3-member panel of arbitrators, whose decision would be binding. And the measure PROHIBITS strikes by public safety employees. Sponsors of the plan are Assembly Speaker Willie Brown of S.F., and S.F. Co. Supes Harry Britt and Wendy Nelder. The main committee is called San Franciscans for Better Management. The GCA Group of S.F. is handling campaign management...

• NO POKER CLUB ISSUE THIS FALL – It now appears as though backers of a poker club for the upscale Westside L.A. County city of West Hollywood failed to get enough signatures to place the question on the November 1990 ballot. Backers needed just over 3,000 valid names, but came up 400 short. However, the 2,600 names is enough to force the issue onto the April 1992 ballot...

ANDREA SEASTRAND TO BE GOP NOMINEE IN 29th.
Andrea Seastrand has been named to replace her late hubsand, Assemblyman Eric Seastrand, as the Republican nominee for the assembly in the 29th A.D. The assemblyman died shortly after the primary following a long fight with cancer. Mrs. Seastrand ought to be a slam dunk against Demo John Lybarger, a retired teacher from San Luis Obispo. The 29th takes in all of San Luis Obisop County and parts of both Montery and Santa Barbara Counties. The 29th A.D. has a 47.87% GOP to 39.42% Demo registration edge...

SECRETARY OF STATE NUMBERS BALLOT MEASURES.
All of the bond measures, referendums and initiatives for the Nov. 6th ballot have now been numbered by the Sec. of State's office. The numbers start with Prop. 124, a referendum dealing with public finance, and run to Prop. 140, the term limitation initiative by L.A. Co. Sup. Pete Scharbarum. CALPEEK will provide a complete rundown on all 17 propositions, with campaign consultants and phone numbers in our Aug. 6th issue...

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SPORTS & POLITICS DON'T MIX WELL IN CALIF. Editor's note: Sports teams in Calif. are treated almost like public utilities. They are free from anti-trust rules and they get loads of free and mostly positive publicity from the hometown news media. But when it comes to politics, especially at the local level, the two just don't mix...

...Want proof that sports & politics don't mix well? Then go back to last June when Lionel Wilson was running for a 4th term as mayor of Oakland. One of his key promises was to return the Silver & Black RAIDERS to Oakland. The problem was that the deal between the City of Oakland/Alameda County and the Raiders' owner Al Davis was viewed by many Oakland voters as giving away the store, with guarantees that could have bankrupt Oakland's shrinking treasury. Result: Mayor Wilson finished third behind Assemblyman Elihu Harris and Oakland Councilman Wilson Riles Jr., who campaigned AGAINST the Raider agreement...

...As it so happens, the Raider deal has now been redrawn, with the city and county off the financial hook. Both the council and the Alameda County supes will probably okay a new deal to refit the Alameda County Coliseum with $60 million in improvements. And sources believe with 41,000 in potential advanced season tickets already in the bag, Al Davis would be a fool not to return to an area that really loves his team, even at $70 per ticket...

...As for L.A., well, Mayor Tom Bradley WON'T be hit with the politically damaging title of the "mayor who lost the Raiders." What may cause the Raiders to exit LaLa land was beyond his control. And he may be a hero again, if he can help find a new pro football team for the aging L.A. Coliseum. Key to getting a new team would be an expensive facelift for the Coliseum, but that's what has to be done and that too is a politically sensitive problem. But if Bradley could pull it off, a 6th term would be in the cards, despite previous problems. Like the 1984 Olympics, this is an exception to mixing politics and sports...

...Meanwhile, up in the Bay Area, the S.F. baseball Giants could find themselves being called the Santa Clara Giants. After the fiasco of Prop. P last November, where S.F. voters narrowly rejected the idea of building a new ballpark in the China Basin area of downtown S.F., Giant officials have been actively negotiating with the County and City of Santa Clara (a joint power agreement to bring the Giants to the area and build a new 45,000 baseball-only stadium). The City and County have until Aug. 10 to put a measure on the November ballot...

...In the meantime, S.F. Mayor Art Agnos is still trying to fight off the title as "The mayor who lost the Giants." Some say it isn't fair to blame Agnos for the loss of Prop. P. Others don't buy that. Some sources think the deal was flawed and that, more than anything else, is why it was rejected by voters. The China Basin deal brings backs memories of when former S.F. Mayor George Christopher helped put the deal together that put Candlestick Park on the map – in a horrible location and with not enough toilets when the park first opened. Who can forget...

...Which now brings us to "The Ballpark 5." When Prop. P went down the tubes, Agnos tried to blame the defeat on Sacto developer Greg Lukenbill and 4 political consultants. S.F. DA Arlo Smith got involved and got the S.F. County Grand Jury to indict the five on misdemeanor charges, surrounding their effort to defeat Prop. P. But S.F. Muni Court Judge Philip Moscone dismissed the whole thing June 22nd. Why did DA Arlo Smith go after the Ballpark 5? The S.F. Bay Guardian, in an editorial, suggests politics were involved, with Agnos pressuring Smith -- a charge that the mayor denies. Smith is the Demo AG candidate this fall, and this case involving Prop. P may resurface again. Which all goes to prove that politics and sports don't mix. Stay tuned...

ROLL CALL LISTS 20 U.S. REPS IN HOT WATER. In its July 16th issues, Roll Call, the newspaper of Congress, has run a list of what it considers to be the top 20 U.S. House members who MAY have a tough reelection battle in November. There are 9 GOP members on the list and 11 Demos -- two are from Calif. In the #1 spot of Roll Call's list is U.S. Rep. Charles Pashayan(R-Fresno). The other Calif. congressman on the list is U.S. Rep. George Brown Jr.(D-Colton), who is #15...

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BECHTEL GROUP SUBMITS ONLY PLAN FOR HIGH SPEED TRAIN LINKING LAS VEGAS AND ANAHEIM. Evaluation of a single plan to link Las Vegas and Anaheim by a 300 mph. Maglev SST (super speed train) will take place Aug. 14 in Sacramento, when the Calif./Nevada Super Speed Ground Transportation Commission reviews the plan for the $5 billion, 270 mile rail link submitted by Bechtel Internat'l of S.F...

...Last week Bechtel and its partners, C. Itoh Co. of Japan, Transrapid of West Germany and Amtrak, were the only group to submit a plan, along with $500,000 in good faith money. And while many observers were pleased with the Bechtel plan, this was not a unanimous opinion. L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley isn't totally happy with the plan because he thinks L.A. has been totally bypassed. The main part of Bechtel's plan links Las Vegas with Anaheim in Orange Co., but also calls for feasibility studies on rail spurs linking the main line with such places as Palmdale, Palm Springs and Santa Ana...

...If it comes to a vote in August up in Sacramento, CALPEEK sources believe that Orange Co. Sup. Don Roth, the vice chair of the commission, has the votes to win backing for the Bechtel plan...

...At that August meeting, the staff will also submit a draft of a franchise agreement between the commission and Bechtel. With that draft, it is believed that Bechtel and its partners could go to the financial community to begin raising the necessary dollars. And while $5 billion is a huge amount of money, remember this: the group headed by Bechtel is also the same group which is building the tunnel under the English Channel --- cost $12 billion. Stay tuned...

NEW WOMEN'S CHOICE SLATE MAILER FOR FALL. Rob Rice's Calif. Communicators and the direct mail consulting firm of Below, Tobe & Associates will market a non-partisan slate mailer aimed at the State's 3 million high propensity women voters. The new slate will include statewide candidates and ballot measures, congressional, legislative and local candidates and issues. For info contact Rob Rice (213)457-1088...

NEW JOBS, ACCOUNTS AND PERSONNEL NOTES. Editor's note: Here's a brief update on some new personnel developments:

- Dianne Feinstein's Demo campaign for governor has picked up some key people from former rival John Van de Kamp's operation. Now aboard the DiFi express are Vicky Rideout, who will be a deputy cmp. director; fundraising ace Marsha Kwalwasser, who will be DiFi's So. Calif. finance director; and Jonas Hanelin, who will do advance work...

- Diane P. Scott and Heather L. Scott are partnered and have reopened dps enterprises, a fundraising/event & campaign coordination firm, P.O. Box 82324, San Diego, CA 92138 (619)225-0951...

- Rene Brouillette, coordinator for ex Demo IC candidate Walter Zelman, is the new executive director of the Culver City-based CA Attorneys for Criminal Justice...

- Word in San Diego is that the veteran campaign mgt. firm of Johnston & Lewis (Jim Johnston and Dave Lewis) are no longer involved in politics as consultants...

- The CA Demo Party has awarded its 1990 voter file contract to American Data Management of Mt. View, CA. ADM also does work for the Demo Party in both Florida and Hawaii...

- L.A. based Cerrell Associates, Inc. has been handling press and scheduling assignments for U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer(D-Marin) in the Southern Calif. area for the past several months. Boxer is eyeing a possible run for the U.S. Senate in 1992...

- Attorney/govt. relations whiz Pat Trendacosta has been with the Mid-Wilshire L.A. law firm of Frandsel & Share for the past 2 months. Trendacosta had been a fixture with Union Bank in downtown L.A. for a number of years...

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